within 5 years prior to the receipt of the debarment notice by the recipient;

- (4) Knowing entry by the recipient into:
- (i) Any agreement or arrangement, including, but not limited to, a subgrant, subcontract, or other similar agreement, with an entity debarred by the Corporation during the period of debarment if so precluded by the terms of the debarment; or
- (ii) An agreement for professional services with an independent public accountant or other auditor debarred by the Corporation during the period of debarment if so precluded by the terms of the debarment; or
- (5) The filing of a lawsuit by a recipient, provided that the lawsuit:
- (i) Was filed on behalf of the recipient as plaintiff, rather than on behalf of a client of the recipient;
- (ii) Named the Corporation, or any agency or employee of a Federal, State, or local government as a defendant:
- (iii) Seeks judicial review of an action by the Corporation or such government agency that affects the recipient's status as a recipient of Federal funding, except for a lawsuit that seeks review of whether the Corporation or agency acted outside of its statutory authority or violated the recipient's constitutional rights; and
- (iv) Was initiated after December 23, 1998.

§ 1606.5 Procedures.

- (a) Before any final action is taken under this part, the recipient will be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard as set out in this part.
- (b) Prior to a preliminary determination involving a limited reduction of funding, the Corporation shall designate either the President or another senior Corporation employee to conduct any final review that is requested pursuant to \$1606.10 of this part. The Corporation shall ensure that the person so designated has had no prior involvement in the proceedings under this part so as to meet the criterion set out in \$1606.10(d) of this part.

§ 1606.6 Preliminary determination and final decision.

- (a) When the Corporation has made a preliminary determination of one or more of the following, the Corporation shall issue a written notice to the recipient and the Chair of the recipient's governing body: that a recipient's grant or contract should be terminated, that a limited reduction of funding shall be imposed, or that a recipient should be debarred. The notice shall:
- (1) State the substantial noncompliance that constitutes the grounds for the proposed action;
- (2) Identify, with reasonable specificity, any facts or documents relied upon as justification for the proposed action:
- (3) Inform the recipient of the proposed amount and proposed effective date for the proposed action;
- (4) Advise the recipient of its procedural rights for review of the proposed action under this part;
- (5) Inform the recipient of its right to receive interim funding pursuant to §1606.13 of this part;
- (6) Specify what, if any, corrective action the recipient can take to avoid the proposed action; and
- (7) Summarize prior attempts, if any, for resolution of the substantial non-compliance.
- (b) If the recipient does not request review, as provided for in this part, before the relevant time limits have expired, then the Corporation may issue a final decision to the recipient. No further appeal or review will be available under this part.

§ 1606.7 Corrective action, informal conference, review of written materials, and final decision.

- (a) If the Corporation proposes a corrective action in the preliminary determination pursuant to \$1606.6(a)(6) of this part, then the recipient may accept and implement the corrective action, in lieu of an informal conference or submission of written materials under this section, subject to the following requirements:
- (1) Within 10 business days of receipt of the preliminary determination, the recipient may submit a draft compliance agreement to accept the terms of